



**COL. KATHIE CLOSE**  
377th Air Base Wing commander

### Thanks to Army gate guards

I'm glad the Army (N.M. Army National Guard) is here on the front gates. I appreciate them being there. I am a retired security forces member and I know we've been maxed out since 9/11.

I think that everybody should thank the Army for showing up. I greatly appreciate them and I know my fellow cops on the gates appreciate them also.

Tell the Army thank you.

Thank you for your comments. We are proud of the N.M. Army National Guard and glad they have joined TEAM KIRTLAND.

### Why do some have to pay to use facilities?

Why are employee's from other federal agencies required to pay to use the gym, when Air Force, or DOD federal employ-

## FORUM

**kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240**

ee's can use the gym free. We are all federal people, work for the same federal government.

**I don't understand why restrictions are placed on non-DOD federal employees.**

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to address this.

Congress funds Air Force fitness centers because physical fitness is vital to the mission of the Air Force.

Air Force Instruction 34-262, Program Eligibility and Use Priority, gives active duty military and their family members priority to use the fitness centers. There are 27 categories of people authorized to use services facilities. DOD civilians fall into priority 18 and U.S. federal employees are priority 22.

We have a unique situation here because we have two large federal agencies on the installation. As the installation commander, I authorize membership to services activities based on the 27 categories of possible eligible customers. To authorize use of services facilities, I have to factor in the facility size, staff and appropriated funding.

As a result of those factors, I have authorized more than 1,000 employees from both DOE and Sandia National Laboratories to use the fitness centers. To make the fitness facilities available to additional federal employees on Kirtland AFB, 400 memberships

can be purchased from these agencies. This additional funding is important to us because it allows us to maintain and purchase equipment and sustain the fitness operation in support of the additional users.

We feel these fees are reasonable and are competitive with local health club fees.

### Gate signs wording changing for clarity

Recently, I approached the Gibson Gate in the left-hand lane.

On either side of the entrance are red and white signs saying "STOP WHEN DIRECTED."

There was no guard visible on left-side and the guard on right side was facing north, perhaps talking to the guard who I couldn't see. I slowly drove through, until I got about six-feet beyond the door to the guard shack, at which time the guard came out and yelled at me to stop.

I backed up and told the guard that I must have misunderstood the sign. He said he guessed I did. After having me remove my identification card from my wallet, he eased off and told me to have a nice day.

The signs say "Stop when directed." Maybe they're supposed to read "Stop Proceed When Directed" but that's not what is painted on them.

I can understand that what happened to me is probably rare; as normally there is a guard in

sight, directing, and I would have been directed to stop.

Sorry about the misunderstanding. New signs are being made which will read "STOP - 100% ID Check" to replace current signs that read "Stop when directed."

This will ensure vehicle drivers are warned of identification checks in progress. Security Forces will conduct 100 percent identification checks until directed to do otherwise.

### Contacting Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB. Give base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum. Callers' names won't be printed.

**Write:**

377th ABW/CC Forum  
2000 Wyoming SE  
Kirtland AFB NM 87117.

### Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691  
CE 24-hour Help Desk, 846-8222  
Commissary, 846-9586  
Computer help, 846-5926  
Energy wasting, 846-4633  
Exchange Service, 266-9887  
Family Services, 846-0741  
Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639  
Law Enforcement Desk, 846-7926, 846-7913  
Legal Services, 846-4217  
Medical Clinic, 846-3406  
Services Squadron, 853-7679

## 377th ABW uniform wear policy changed

Col. Kathleen D. Close, 377th Air Base Wing commander, has changed wing guidance on wearing the military uniform.

Members traveling on temporary duty during Force Protection Condition Bravo or higher are now mandated to wear civilian clothes, not military uniforms.

The rest of the uniform wear policy is unchanged:

★ Members traveling on temporary duty (during Force Protection Condition Normal or Alpha) are mandated to wear the blue service uniform. Any uniform combination with tie or tab following Air Force Instruction 36-2903, table 1.3, is acceptable.

★ The duty uniform during 377th Air Base Wing exercises and operational readiness evaluations is the battle dress uniform with battle dress uniform cap with subdued rank.

★ The designated uniform of the day for Thursdays is the battle dress uniform with organizational cap except during 377th Air Base Wing exercises, operational readiness evaluations and designated higher headquarters inspections when battle dress uniform caps will be worn with subdued rank.

The point of contact for this policy is Senior Airman Alex Martinez, 846-8949.

### AF body modification, mutilation guidance

The Air Force is stressing personal appearance guidelines in response to a trend involving extreme body modification and mutilation that is becoming common among a small, yet growing segment of the population, according to personnel officials.

Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel prohibits Airmen from intentionally altering or modifying their bodies in order to achieve a visible effect that disfigures, deforms or otherwise detracts from a professional military image.

The goal of this instruction

is to establish broad guidance to assist commanders, first sergeants, recruiters and Airmen in determining what is or is not acceptable and professional.

Administrative or disciplinary action will be left to the discretion of each commander if they feel Airmen have done something to themselves that might detract from their professional military image.

There are certain appearance standards that the service and the nation expects Airmen to adhere to and therefore Air Force people must always strive to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

## NUCLEUS

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Photo by Dennis Carlson

**New comptroller commander**

Col. Kathleen D. Close, 377th Air Base Wing commander, left presents command of the 377th Comptroller Squadron to Maj. Lisa R. McColgan. The assumption of command was Feb. 13. McColgan comes from the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas, where she served as chief, financial management and comptroller assignments, mission support officer assignments division.



Photo by Todd Berenger

**Senators, scientists start new lab construction**

New Mexico Senators Pete Domenici, 2nd from left, and Jeff Bingaman, 2nd from right, assist Dr. Earl Good, left, and Dr. Robert Fugate, right, in breaking ground for the new \$15.5 million Telescope Atmosphere Compensation Laboratory. Good is the director of the Air Force Research Laboratory Directed Energy Directorate and Fugate is the Starfire Optical Range senior scientist. The new 52,000-square-foot facility will support the Directed Energy Directorate in its advanced optical research, laser propagation and space object imaging. There will be enough laboratory space and associated optics, electronics and computers to design, construct, test and integrate experimental hardware for optical research. The lab will be located near the Kirtland AFB Starfire Optical Range facility.